

January 31, 2013

Secretary Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary John Laird
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Commissioner Michael L. Connor
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Jerry Meral, Deputy Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Salazar, Secretary Laird, Commissioner Connor and Deputy Secretary Meral:

The State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are the two most important conveyance systems in California. They move water supplies from the Sierra Nevada to the Silicon Valley, the millions of acres of farmland in the Central Valley, and the trillion-dollar economy of Southern California. For seven years, federal and state agencies have been working constructively within the Bay Delta Conservation Plan to identify the right investments necessary to transport these supplies across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta while restoring this treasured ecosystem. Your agencies have correctly identified that a comprehensive approach is essential, that a new transportation system across the Delta is needed, and that any solution must meet the state's coequal goals of a reliable water supply and a restored Delta ecosystem. As the Governor stated in his State-of-the-State address about the need for new Delta conveyance, "big problems need bold solutions."

We write to express our concern about a proposal that has been inaccurately characterized by the proponents as a legitimate "alternative." The alternative drastically downsizes the future conveyance facility across the Delta, creating risk for the California economy and the health of the Delta. The alternative proposal would depart from the coequal goals by leaving California without a water supply solution for the residents and industries in several regions of the state. The proposal would provide no relief for farm workers and farmers in the Central Valley. Even more concerning is the fact that the proposal would leave California unprotected from the impacts of a major seismic event or the failure of the system due to major climate events. The alternative would also jeopardize a critical infrastructure project that could create 100,000 jobs and would significantly boost the state's economic recovery.

Those same organizations that have long opposed current pumping operations of water projects in the south Delta are now proposing to rely on this very same system. This approach will only serve to perpetuate the current degradation of the Delta. They are seeking to downsize the new water conveyance system that would originate in the northern Delta to 20 percent of the capacity of the existing aqueduct system. They claim that California can afford to lose a third of this vital supply and replace it locally.

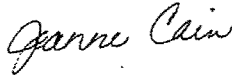
To intentionally constrict future water conveyance capacity in the Delta would cripple the ability to capture adequate supplies in wet years. It would lead to massive land retirement of farmland in the Central Valley, where there are no alternate supplies. It would make water less reliable and more expensive throughout the state. The Bay Area and Southern California are already embracing conservation and local supply development. These efforts are essential, but they in no way satisfy the need for adequate and reliable Delta supplies today.

We encourage you to stay the course toward crafting a final Bay Delta Conservation Plan that will advance smart, properly sized investments in our water transportation system and to restore the health of the Delta estuary.

Sincerely,



Jose Mejia
Director
California State Council of
Laborers



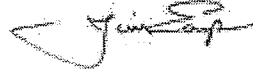
Jeanne Cain
Executive Vice President,
Policy
California Chamber of
Commerce



Richard Lyon
Senior Vice President
California Building Industry
Association



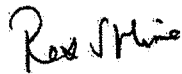
Daniel Curtin
Director
California Conference of
Carpenters



Jim Earp
Executive Director
California Alliance for Jobs



Tom Nassif
President/CEO
Western Growers
Association



Rex Hime
President/CEO
California Business
Properties Association



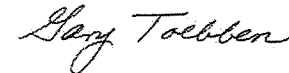
Tim Cremins
Director of Education and
Research
California-Nevada
Conference of Operating
Engineers



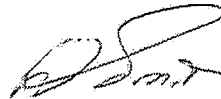
Richard Atwater
Executive Director
Southern California Water
Committee



Tracy Rafter, CEO
BizFed, Los Angeles
County Business
Federation



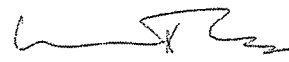
Gary Toeppen
President/CEO
Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce



Al Smith
President/CEO
Greater Fresno Area
Chamber of Commerce



Lucy Dunn
President /CEO
Orange County Business
Council



William D. Phillimore
Executive Vice President
Paramount Farming
Company



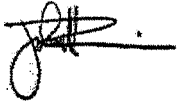
Stuart Waldman
President
Valley Industry &
Commerce Association



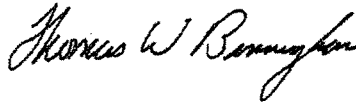
Ryan Jacobsen
CEO/Executive Director
Fresno County Farm Bureau



Shane Chapman
General Manager
Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District



John V. Rossi
General Manager
Western Municipal Water
District



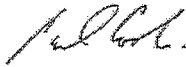
Thomas Birmingham
General Manager
Westlands Water District



Paul D. Jones II, P.E.
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water
District



Scott Hamilton
Director
Coalition for a Sustainable
Delta



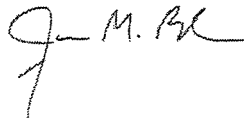
Paul Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



Kirby Brill
General Manager
Mojave Water Agency



Barbara Robinson
President
Monday Morning Group of
Western Riverside County



James M. Beck
General Manager
Kern County Water
Agency

CC: The Honorable Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California
The Honorable Members of the California Legislature
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Senior Advisor, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Mark Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Matt Rodriquez, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency